wide-open eyes, enjoying life, grasping avidly for new toys—chrome-covered cars, electrical gadgets, TV sets. And thus the Joneses come into the picture. Whatever new toy the Joneses have, their neighbors want the same—but bigger and better.

It would be an exaggeration to say that the people of the United States are free from prejudices. We met manifestations of anti-Semitism, distrust of Roman Catholics, antipathy toward the Mexicans, the Italians, Poles, and foreigners in general. There is the bleeding wound of discrimination against the Negroes. But here the manifestations of nationalistic, racial, or religious intolerance are characteristic of definite groups of the population rather than of the whole people. The Irish brought with them the grudge against the British. Southerners have been poisoned by hatred of Negroes and contempt for them—contempt because the Negroes' great-grandfathers were slaves of the whites; hatred because some Negroes were masters of the whites during the short period of Reconstruction after the Civil War or have proved themselves more successful today. These ugly prejudices are in striking contrast to the general spirit of tolerance that characterizes American civilization.

In our lecture tours in Latin America and Asia, we have often been asked about the treatment of the Negroes in the United States. We have tried to dispel the false notions planted by anti-American propaganda—for example, that Negroes are not admitted to high schools or colleges and are corralled in their homes after dusk—but we have neither denied nor minimized the seriousness of the Negro problem. Explaining the roots of the deplorable situation, we have stressed the complexity of the American agglomeration of conflicting cultural currents. The great majority of the people in this country, we have said, have definite ideals of decency and justice in human relations and do not feel that these ideals have been realized in our institutions and everyday life. Democracy is a continuous struggle for a better life and greater justice. The defense of rights of minorities is one aspect of this struggle, and what has been achieved in this field in the past two decades shows that the country is moving in the right direction.

EQUALITY

The feature that impressed us most in the American character was the feeling of social equality, a feature that native-born Americans fail to notice because they take it for granted. The inferiority complex that haunted the first President of the German Republic would have been impossible in America, where an important political person is in-